

Message Text

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14

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

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R 270827Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7327

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1731

S/NM FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE FROM WHITEHOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: BPP REFINERY RAID

REF: CHIANG MAI 22

1. I WOULD LIKE TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION TO AN IMPORTANT POINT NOT MENTIONED IN CHIANG MAI'S REPORT ON THE JANUARY 22 REFINERY RAID; THE BPP PLATOON THAT FLEW IN TO SEIZE THE REFINERY USED THE TWO HELICOPTERS PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM. THIS SUCCESSFUL OPERATION ILLUSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THE VALUE OF HELICOPTERS FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL OPERATIONS IN THE RUGGED TERRAIN ALONG THE NORTHERN THAI BORDER. I ALSO NOTE THAT THE INTELLIGENCE FOR THIS OPERATION WAS PROVIDED BY THE BPP WITHOUT ANY INPUTS FROM THE U.S. SIDE. OUR PEOPLE IN CHIANG MAI WERE UNAWARE OF THE REFINERY AND THE BPP'S PLANS TO ATTACK IT UNTIL AFTER THE BPP INITIATED THE OPERATION.

2. I BELIEVE THIS OPERATION COMPARES FAVORABLY WITH THE BURMESE OPERATION AGAINST THE CIF/SURA REFINERY AT PA PI LAST SEPTEMBER. AMOUNTS OF SEIZED NARCOTICS IN THE TWO OPERATIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO COMPARE, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, SINCE THE DRUGS SEIZED IN BURMA WERE IN SOLU-

TION AND AT A DIFFERENT STAGE OF PROCESSING.

3. FINALLY, I WOULD ADD THAT THE THAI APPEAR TO BE
MAKING MORE USE OF HELICOPTERS FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL.
IN DECEMBER THEIR HELICOPTERS FLEW 23 NARCOTICS MISSIONS
TOTALING 73 HOURS AS COMPARED WITH 11 MISSIONS AND 33
HOURS IN NOVEMBER.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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